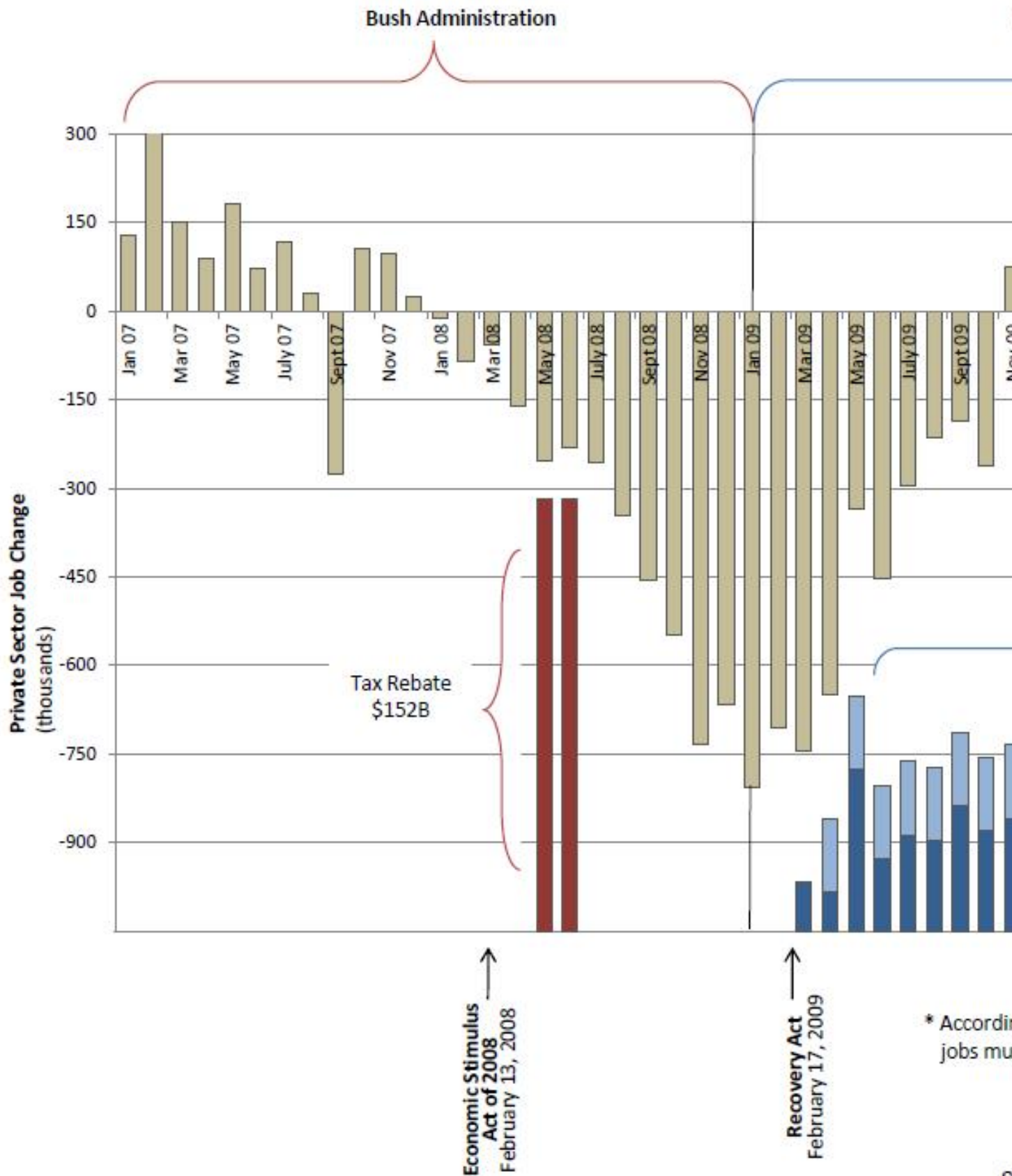**The Economy and Jobs**

There is not a more important issue facing our country today than the economy and the need for more American jobs. I am determined to work in Washington to lower the unemployment rate, keep it low and build job security. During the 111th Congress, I voted for the economic interests of "Main Street" by supporting various measures which support small businesses over international corporations that export American jobs overseas. The "Great Recession" economic and jobs crisis was caused by a reckless approach to regulation. The greed of some in corporate America brought our nation's economy to the brink of disaster, and we saw twenty-two consecutive months of job losses, many of which were greater than 500,000. I supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, which continues to create jobs . As we consider new legislation, we must be willing to take on the difficult task of balancing our budget through austerity measures and tax reform. That is the only way toward a future era of prosperity.

We need to put Americans out of work back to work. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act went a long way toward that goal, by spurring immediate job creation and making long-term investments in energy, infrastructure, and education. In the long run we must take on alternative energy production, modernizing buildings and homes, and encourage innovation in green industries to bring America forward in the 21st century. ARRA provided for investment on additional long term needs, including the expansion of broadband technology across the country and initial investments into a smart grid for power consumption. These efforts have helped stabilize job loss and have accounted for new growth in the jobs market. My optimism, however, comes with reservations. If we do not continue to invest in the long-term needs of this country, we will not be able to sustain this recovery and growth. More work needs to be done.

Tax and Stimulus Effects on Private Sector

Bush Administration

Private Sector Job Change (thousands)

Tax Rebate $152B

Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 February 13, 2008

Recovery Act February 17, 2009

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